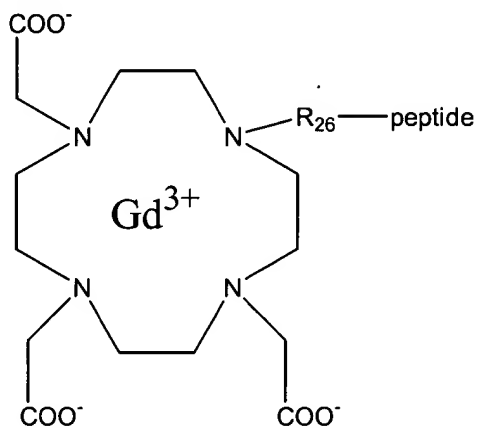


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-21 (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) An activatable MRI agent having the formula:



or a salt thereof;

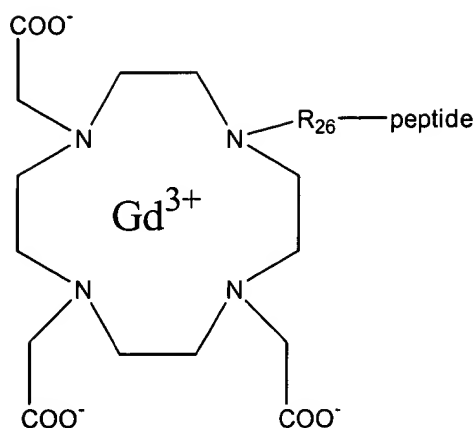
wherein R_{26} is a linker; and,

wherein upon interaction of said peptide with a caspase, the T_1 of said MRI agent is ~~decreased~~ changed.

Claims 23-29 (cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

- a) administering an activatable MRI agent to a tissue, cell or patient, said MRI agent having the formula:



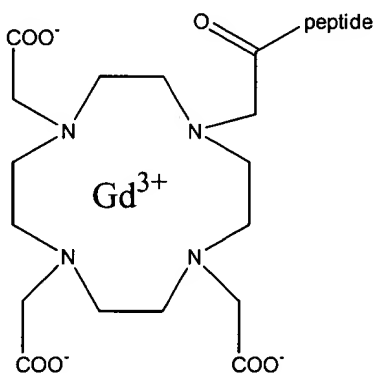
or a salt thereof;

wherein R_{26} is a linker, and under conditions whereby said peptide interacts with a ~~target substance~~ caspase in said tissue, cell or patient such that the T_1 of said MRI agent is ~~decreased~~ changed, and,

b) acquiring a magnetic resonance image of said cell, tissue or patient.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) A method of administering an MRI agent according to claim 30, said MRI agent having the formula:



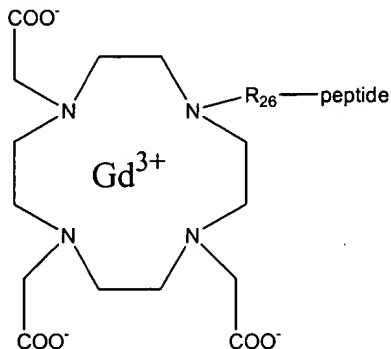
or a salt thereof.

Claims 33-40 (cancelled)

41. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 30 or 32, comprising administering a composition comprising said agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

42. (Currently amended) A method for targeting an MRI agent comprising:

a) administering an activatable MRI agent to a tissue, cell or patient, said MRI agent having the formula:



or a salt thereof;

wherein R_{26} is a linker; and,

b) contacting said peptide with a ~~target-substance~~ caspase such that upon interaction of said peptide with said ~~target-substance~~ caspase the T_1 value of said MRI agent is ~~decreased~~ changed, and said MRI agent accumulates at the location of said ~~target-substance~~ caspase.

Claims 43-44 (cancelled).

45. (Currently amended) An MRI agent according to claim 22 wherein said peptide is a ~~protease~~ caspase substrate.

Claims 46-47 (cancelled)

48. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 30, 32, or 42 wherein said peptide is a ~~protease~~ caspase substrate.

49. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 42, wherein R_{26} comprises -
((CH₂)CO)-.

Claims 50-57 (cancelled)

58. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 42, comprising administering a composition comprising said agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
59. (Previously presented) An MRI composition according to claim 22, wherein said caspase is selected from the group consisting of caspase-1, caspase-2, caspase-3, caspase-4, caspase-5, caspase-6, caspase-7, caspase-8, caspase-9, and caspase-10.
60. (Previously presented) An MRI composition according to claim 59, wherein said caspase is caspase-1.
61. (Previously presented) An MRI composition according to claim 45, wherein said peptide sequence is selected from the group consisting of YVADAPV (SEQ ID NO. 1), DEVDG (SEQ ID NO. 2), SRVDG (SEQ ID NO. 3), DMQDM (SEQ ID NO. 4), YVHDA (SEQ ID NO. 5), VEIDN (SEQ ID No. 6), DETDS (SEQ ID NO. 7), and DEADG (SEQ ID NO. 8).
62. (Previously presented) An MRI composition according to claim 61, wherein said peptide sequence is YVADAPV (SEQ ID NO. 1).
63. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 30, 32, or 42, wherein said caspase is selected from the group consisting of caspase-1, caspase-2, caspase-3, caspase-4, caspase-5, caspase-6, caspase-7, caspase-8, caspsase-9, and caspase-10.
64. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 63, wherein said caspase is caspase-1.
65. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 48, wherein said peptide sequence is selected from the group consisting of YVADAPV (SEQ ID NO. 1), DEVDG (SEQ ID NO. 2), SRVDG (SEQ ID NO. 3), DMQDM (SEQ ID NO. 4), YVHDA (SEQ ID NO. 5), VEIDN (SEQ ID No. 6), DETDS (SEQ ID NO. 7), and DEADG (SEQ ID NO. 8).
66. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 65, wherein said peptide sequence is YVADAPV (SEQ ID NO. 1).